

Special Education/MOE Web seminar - April 22

1. Who do we contact regarding construction or alterations of facilities?

Contact the Special Education Division, Frank Podobnik at fpodobnik@mt.gov or 444-4428

2. If funds are used for schoolwide professional development, such as MBI or RTI, do the same requirements for early intervening services apply?

Consider this professional development as long as the purpose of the professional development is to provide training for teachers that will positively impact outcomes for kids with disabilities.

3. Could the funds be used to purchase a Smart Board for the Special Ed classroom?

Yes. Anything over \$5000, however, requires prior approval from the Division

4. How does this affect the Coop's maintenance of effort, if one district has had action taken against them but all others have met all standards?

Reducing maintenance of effort is district specific, even though it rolls up to the Coop, so that particular district in the cooperative would not be able to reduce their effort, but the Coop as a whole or the other districts in the Coop, would be able to take an early reduction.

5. Does early intervening equal pre-school?

No.

6. I got the answer to the use of funds for early intervening services, but more specifically, if funds are used for school wide initiatives impacting nondisabled students, MBI, RTI, would funds for these purposes have to be treated as early intervening?

IDEA funds cannot be used for direct services for students not identified as in need of special education and related services but global participation in MBI activities, providing training for teachers on MBI and RTI and their positive effect for all kids, even though all kids would be benefiting all students would allowable. But we'd have to know more particular about the expense talked about here.

7. Do we need to separate regular IDEA funds from regular ARRA funds with different project reporter codes or funding codes?

Yes. We will provide additional information and training on this topic in the near future

8. A comment was made about private home school students with IDEA Part B, do we need to offer them some sort a portion of this?

The proportionate chair rules apply to the ARRA funds as well as the regular IDEA funds. They are an increase in the regular IDEA allocation.

9. Do schools use child count data from 12/1/08 to calculate proportional chair for private schools or the whole term of the stimulus Part B funds?

Yes

10. If a school is in a Coop and that school causes the whole Coop to not maintain effort, who is responsible to pay back the funds?

Maintenance of effort determination is made at the Coop level but depending on the cooperative agreement, the Coop board's policy would determine who might be required to pay back the funds.

11. Is there a final updated spreadsheet that shows the amounts for each district for IDEA and Title 1?

There isn't a spreadsheet that shows both Title and IDEA. The IDEA allocation information including both allocations is posted on the Special Education page on the OPI website.

12. Let's assume an LEA receives a \$100,000 in Part B stimulus funds, the district does not have to maintain effort on \$50,000 but obviously has to maintain effort on the remaining \$50,000. How are districts expected to meet that requirement given we will not see any significant increase in funding from the legislature?

Maintenance of effort is based on the amount that a district expended in *state and local funds* in the previous year. It's not that they would have to maintain effort on \$50,000 of the \$100,000, it's that they could use \$50,000 of the \$100,000 to reduce the amount of state and local expenditures that they have. Your ability to reduce fiscal effort actual establishes a new threshold, meaning a lower threshold

13. If professional development takes place in June 2009, can the ARRA funds can be used to finance that session?

Yes. The ARRA funds available in May can be used for costs dating back to February 17, 2009, which were the effective date of the law and the date of the grants.

14. As a Coop, we are looking for a new building, could we use ARRA funds to pay for it?

Contact the Division for any specific discussion on this topic.

15. For nonpublic schools, will the increase money continue to be direct services, consultation, transportation, and is there an opportunity to use the money for supplies?

The services provided to private school and home school students previously determined by the district through its consultation with private and home school representatives will continue to be in effect.